GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:58
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
INDO IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project has been discussed with the Government of Pakistan recently; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 58 BY SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN AND SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD MARCH, 2005 REGARDING INDO-IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT.

(a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through an onland pipeline transiting through Pakistan. Discussions on the project are at a preliminary stage.

(b) & (c) On 6.9.2004, the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi and agreed as follows: "The two Ministers recognized the importance of availability and access to energy resources in the region around South Asia. It was further stated that the Ministers of Petroleum/Gas could meet to discuss the issue in its multifarious dimensions".

On 26.9.2004 the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan met in New York and agreed as follows: "It was felt that such a project could contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the people of both countries and should be considered in the larger context of expanding trade and economic relations between India and Pakistan".

Thereafter, during the visit to India on 24-25 November,2004 of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, accompanied by his Petroleum Minister, further discussions were held. The issue was broached with Iran at Tehran on 5-6 December 2004 and further dealt with in meetings with them in New Delhi on 7.1.2005 and 15.2.2005. Cabinet authorization for the approach to be adopted was secured on 9.2.2005. It is now proposed to hold bilateral discussions between the Petroleum Ministers of Pakistan and India in pursuance of the agreement between the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 6 September,2004 and subsequent developments in this regard.